This para appears necessary for practical working and will cover cases of the kind referred to by the President. As we have no infirmaries in all places, it is well to empower the Magistrate to accept security for the treatment of the animal, in cases where he may not be satisfied with the word of the owner.

Seconded by Mr. Ferguson.

After some discussion, the amendment was carried by majority.

Section 8.

Mr. Kuruvila.—I beg to propose that this section be omitted. It empowers the superior Magistrates and Police officers to issue search-warrants in certain cases to bring to light offences under this law. To my humble thinking, it is necessary to maintain a due proportion between the gravity of an offence against the duty of charity towards an animal kept in a private place and that of an interruption of the peace and dignity of a human home under the shadow of a penal law. The object of the Bill should, I think, be confined to cases brought to public gaze and should not extend to cases requiring search-warrants.

Seconded by Mr. Kesava Pillai.

Mr. Ferguson.—I have no objection to the amendment. I do not wish to be considered inquisitorial.

Carried.

Section 9.

Mr. Kuruvila.—I beg to propose that the following words be substituted for "after" in line 4:—

"except with the written sanction of the President of the Committee for the improvement of the Town in which the offence has been committed and except before"

This amendment is intended to ensure that a superior officer's discretion is invited at the initial stage to decide whether a case of cruelty is one deserving of the grave treatment contemplated by the Bill. This is very necessary to prevent both vindictive action by unscrupulous authorities and abnormally sentimental enthusiasm on the part of over-scrupulous members of societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals. The President of the Town Improvement Committee, whether an official or a non-official, can be expected to know and guide ordinary public feeling in the Town. Under Regulation III of 1076, it is the President that is empowered to take action on his own responsibility in cases of emergency (vide section 69) for the prevention of epidemic diseases; and under the same law, the permission of the Committee is necessary for starting prosecutions for several offences. I solicit your kind acceptance of the amendment proposed.

Seconded by Mr. Kesava Pillai.

Carried by majority.

Mr. Ferguson.—I beg to propose that the Bill as now amended be read again on a future day of which notice shall be given.

The motion was put and agreed to.

LUNACY BILL.

Mr. Govinda Pillai.—I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Lunacy Bill and move that the Report and the Amended Bill be published in the Gazette and the consideration of the Bill taken up at the next meeting.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned at 6 P. M.

K. KRISHNASWAMY RAO,
President.

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